

# Our new Patron is the Duchess of Kent

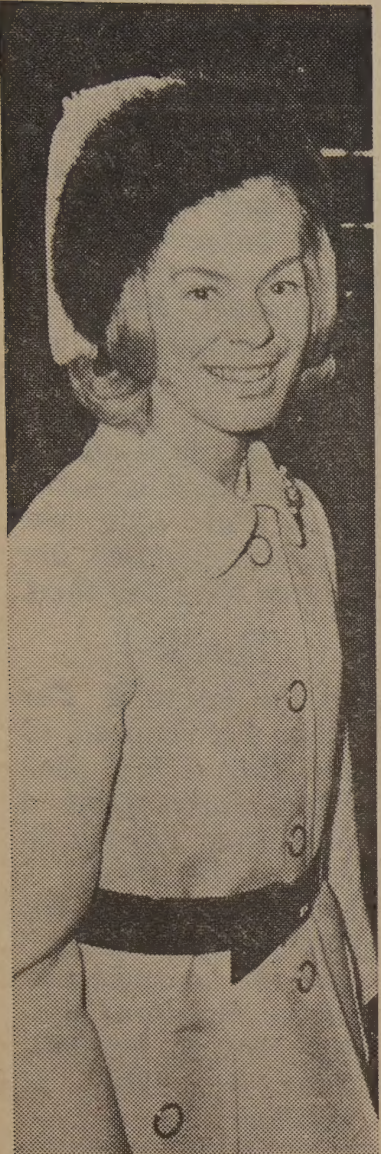
## spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

March, 1969

New Series, Price 6d.

OH! WHAT A SURPRISE!



The Duchess of Kent, the new Patron of The Spastics Society.

IT IS ANNOUNCED with great pleasure that the Duchess of Kent has accepted an invitation from the Executive Council of The Spastics Society to become Patron in succession to the late Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, who was Patron of The Spastics Society from February 1963 until the date of her death last year, and earlier of The British Council for the Welfare of Spastics from 1958 until it amalgamated with The Spastics Society in 1963.

The new patron married the Duke of Kent in 1961. They have two children, the Earl of St. Andrews and The Lady Helen Windsor.

She was born Katherine Lucy Mary, daughter of Sir William Worsley, Bt., and Lady Worsley, in 1933.



## Pensions Bill fails

THE BILL designed to provide pensions for disabled people who do not qualify under other schemes, and certain aids and amenities for the handicapped, was rejected when it came up for its second reading in the House of Commons.

Moved by Mr. Jim Prior (Con., Lowestoft), the Bill was rejected by 112 votes to 76, a majority against of 36.

The Under-Secretary of State, Health and Social Security said the Government were unable to support the Bill because its provisions were arbitrary and would inevitably be unsatisfactory in practice.

### Gold award

David Hartley, a 19-year-old Yorkshire spastic, has visited Buckingham Palace to receive a gold medal in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

## Society approves s-n policy document

SYMBOL TO  
SAY . . .



This is the symbol which will be used throughout the country to focus attention on Spastics Week — June 29th to July 5th. It will appear on literature, posters, collecting boxes and other material in connection with the Week.

NOTHING which Mr. James Loring, Director of the Spastics Society, has seen during visits to sub-normality hospitals during the past year has caused him to revise his earlier view that the field of sub-normality is probably the most neglected of all areas of health and welfare services.

He told "Spastics News" that he had retained his admiration for the good hospitals, and for the staff in all hospitals he had visited in the past year or so. But he declared: "The gap between the ideologies of successive Governments and their performance has been tragically wide. The failure to accord to sub-normality proper priority and allocate to it the substantial sums it requires are the root causes of its many problems."

The Director and the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Burn, have consistently hit out hard in making

(Continued on back page)

## Thousands at the door

At Oldham recently, 394 collectors from 36 schools raised £1,064 for the Greater Manchester Civic Appeal. And at Lewisham £1,065 was raised for the Bromley Work Centre by 325 children from 19 schools.

For a report of two other equally successful efforts, see "Door Knock Sorts Boys from Girls," on Page 2.

## STUDENTS AT WORK

Students at Ravensbourne College of Art, Bromley, are designing school furniture for spastics.

The items, adjustable craft tables with quick-action levers and a special type of desk, are being field-tested at Thomas Delarue School at Tonbridge.

It isn't... It can't be... It is! Vera Lynn, Vice-President of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, was given a surprise party to mark the award of her O.B.E. for her charitable work. But the biggest surprise of all came when the Duke of Edinburgh walked in, gripped Vera's hand and added his congratulations to those of the many other personalities present. With them is the Marchioness of Tavistock. (See centre pages).

## Cold swim

Twenty members of the Bromley and District British Sub-Aqua Club braved a water temperature of 36 degrees F. in the Serpentine and collected £104 from sponsors, £50 of which was given to the Lewisham Seals Aqua Club for spastics.

## Spastics week patrons are named

A glittering line-up of celebrities are being invited to become patrons of Spastics Week, which takes place throughout England and Wales from June 29 to July 5.

So far, top fashion designer Mary Quant, the Conservative MP Mr. Chris Chataway and tennis star Virginia Wade have agreed to give their services. And the Duke of Rutland has agreed to become

president of the Spastics Week Patrons Committee. The Duke who lives at Belvoir Castle, near Melton Mowbray, is vice-president of The Spastics Society, president of the Nottingham and District Spastics Society and patron of the Leicester County Spastics Society. The Director of the Society,

Mr. James Loring, said: "We are delighted that the Duke of Rutland has consented to become president of the Patrons Committee."

"His Grace has for many years been an active and tireless worker for the welfare of spastics."

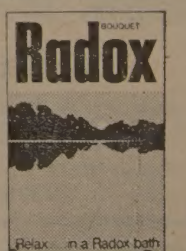
Stop Press: Others who have consented to become patrons include Roger Moore, Colin Davis, Ted Dexter, John Betjeman, Jack de Manio, Jimmy Savile, Doug Arter and Lilian Board.

## Relax in a Radox bath

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# Door-knock sorts boys from girls

GIRLS MAKE better collectors on door-knock appeals than boys, according to the organisers of the Southampton Door Knock, which raised more than £1,000 for the Southampton group.

## Stamps pave pilgrimage

Pupils of Mount St. Mary Convent School, Exeter, are to send a 16-year-old severely handicapped spastic girl to Lourdes.

The girl is Elizabeth Young, of Patchway, Bristol, who will make the trip this Easter.

Under the leadership of Susan Davey and Marguerite Ford, the girls of the Convent have collected 52½ books of Green Shield stamps to enable Elizabeth to visit the shrine. And now they have decided to launch another appeal to send an Exeter girl to Lourdes, too.

## £44,000 damages for girl, 18

A girl of 18 who was said to have been "reduced to spasticity" after a road accident in 1966 was awarded £44,000 damages in Perth — a record for Western Australia.

Marie Rason, who emigrated from Bournemouth three years ago, was in her boy friend's car when it was in collision with a bus. The boy was killed; Marie sustained brain injuries which affected all her limbs, and she can no longer speak. She is confined to a wheelchair.



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TRUE**



**THIRTY-YEAR-OLD**  
Pat Peatfield, a spastic living at Woodford Hostel, has achieved an ambition of a lifetime. She has met and has been befriended by Judy Garland, the Hollywood singer.

For many years, as she was painfully learning to walk, she would hear Judy Garland on records and always felt that if Judy could rise above the handicaps she had to face, Pat could, too.

Every penny

So Judy became her symbol of hope—and today Pat is in open employment as a briar pipe polisher and is rated a good worker.

When Judy Garland opened at the Talk of the Town in London recently, Pat made up her mind to see, and if possible, to meet her heroine.

To do so, she cashed in every last penny of her savings to take herself with a friend

to the Talk of the Town. There, she pleaded to be allowed to meet Miss Garland but was told that it was impossible.

Then — the impossible happened. Miss Garland agreed to see her, spoke to her in a most friendly fashion, insisted on paying her bill — and told Pat that she might telephone her at any time she liked.

**Thrilled**

And she meant it. For when Pat rang her at the Ritz a few days later, Judy spent a long time talking to her on the phone.

"It was just what Pat has always wanted," said the house-keeper of the Woodford Hostel, Mrs. B. Landall-Smith. "She is thrilled."

## THRIFT GIFT

Members of Tewkesbury's Guphill Inn Thrift Club committee raised £100 for the Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Association.

## Sunny Hill cash

A pile of pennies worth £45 4s. 4d. was knocked over at the Sunny Hill Hotel, Whitehaven by the Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland, Mr. J. C. Wade.

A "Somewhere-over-the-Rainbow" smile from Pat as she proudly shows Judy's photograph.

## Stafford's toys

Dennis Stafford, sentenced to life imprisonment in 1967 for murder, spends some of his time in Parkhurst Prison making toys for spastic children. One of them is a castle — with a moving drawbridge . . .

## And points the way to Spastics Week

Nearly 250 young people got together to carry out a door-knock in the 25,000-home Borough of Dudley — and collected close on £1,000 for Dudley and District Spastics Group.

Five Grammar schools, two youth clubs and a Methodist Circuit joined forces to raise the money to help the group, which maintains a day centre.

A spokesman for the Dudley group said: "The door-knock was carried out during the holidays in particularly bad weather. The excellent response is a tribute both to the public spirit of the young people who took part and to the generosity of the people of Dudley."

In addition to the £931 collected, a promise of a further donation, possibly £200, was received.

Footnote: "This door-knock was organised entirely on the Society's method and at the worst time of the year," said the Senior Regional Officer, Midlands. "It indicates what Groups could achieve by these methods in Spastics Week."



The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor F. J. Williams, presenting a cheque for the proceeds to the Group's Chairman, Mr. H. Gwinell. Representatives of the collectors are in the background.

(Photograph, courtesy of Frank Power, Dudley).

## Opening day

The Cwmbran Work Centre for spastics is being officially opened on May 21 by the Lord Lieutenant of Monmouthshire, Colonel E. Roderick Hill.

## Training centre call for friends group

Hopes of a friends organisation for the Society's new Lancaster Industrial Training Centre are expressed by the general manager, Mr. J. Parkinson, in a letter to the people of the Lancaster area.

Mr. Parkinson said: "The objects of the friends organisation will be:

Primarily to initiate and organise fund-raising efforts

to help running costs and the special requirements of the centre.

To provide help when called upon to do so by the general manager in all matters relating to the well-being of the spastic trainees.

To undertake these tasks so

that the general manager and staff of the centre may concentrate their whole energies on the care and education of the trainees.

Membership of the organisation is open to individuals and organisations. Those interested should write to Mr. Parkinson at the centre, which is in Slyne Road, Lancaster.

## Scunthorpe Centre opens door wider

GROUPS BORDERING on Lincolnshire are being invited to find out whether there are any spastics over the age of 16 who would like to reside at the county's Spastic Centre at Scunthorpe.

The committee think that if numbers could be increased by 16, the running expenses of the centre could be reduced. It might conceivably break even.

The Lincolnshire Group are therefore carrying out a survey in their areas to find out if there are any others who would benefit by attendance at the

centre. And they have invited groups bordering the county to make a similar survey for potential residents, who would be supported by either the group or the local authority.

Replies should be sent (by March 31 at the latest) to: A. J. Nicholls, 3 St. John Terrace, Stamford, Lincs.

## A CLARIFICATION

MISUNDERSTANDINGS have arisen following the reprinting in "Spastics News" of a newspaper report under the heading "The Hidden Children".

While steps were taken at the highest level to verify the facts contained in the report, it is felt that misleading inferences may have been drawn by some readers as to the work and objects of the Leicestershire County Spastics Society.

Such inferences were never intended and we gladly set the record straight here.

The County Society has, from the outset, made it clear that it is anxious not to usurp the responsibilities and good work being effected by the groups — Leicester City, Coalville and

Loughborough — of which it is comprised, but seeks to co-ordinate thought between them and to further the welfare of spastics on a county basis.

At its inaugural meeting, the chairman, Prof. Keith Legg, said that uppermost in their thoughts had been the way in which they could seek out spastics in the county as a whole.

"We do not know the total county situation and it is not easy to find out," he said. "We are sure that there are many in need in the county who as yet do not have the opportunity of help from one of the groups."

Their method of attack was to establish more groups to cover the entire county. Having sought out the spastics, and with the need known, there was little doubt that something on a more ambitious scale would be required than an individual group could finance. Fund-raising to cover this eventuality would therefore be a further function of the county society.

"If Leicestershire conforms to the natural average," said Prof. Legg, "we would have over 1,000 known sufferers from cerebral palsy and the actual number is likely to be much higher than this. Dr. R. W. Kind has recently reported that the combined clinic for cerebral palsy cases has examined 250 cerebral palsied children under the age of 16 over the past 10 years."



Lanthorne  
kiddies'  
new pet  
breezes  
in . . .



WE THOUGHT you wouldn't want to miss this happy picture, taken as kiddies and staff at Lanthorne Hospital School for handicapped children made friends with "Breeze," the Shetland pony presented to them by the Kent Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

"Breeze" will provide recreation as a pet for the children—and will also be a stable companion for a riding pony which is to be presented in late Spring by Margate Round Table.

An unusual feature is that the stabling, provided for the ponies also by the Round Table, will be in the grounds of the school.

The charming photograph is reproduced by courtesy of Kent Photonews (Sidcup) Ltd.

## Art show helps S.O.S.

Film actress Sylvia Syms opened an exhibition of oils, watercolours and sculpture at The Gallery Petit, 17 Manderly Court, Finchley Road, Hampstead.

The exhibition included works by Chagall, Otto Hitzberger, Lenke Soldes and Balasz. Guests on the opening night included the conductor Anatole Fistoulari.

A share—about £300 of the proceeds is being donated to the Stars Organisation for Spastics, who have set themselves the task of raising £50,000 in under two years for a new centre for 25 adult spastics at Camberwell Green, South London.

Miss Syms is chairman of the project, which is known as the Camberwell Challenge.

Organiser of the exhibition was Mrs. Alice Bierer.

## SPLASH AT CHELMSFORD

There was some good swimming at an invitation gala promoted by Chelmsford Swimming Club in aid of local spastics. Over £150 was raised.

A trophy, specially presented for the occasion, was won by the home club, with 232 points. Other scores were: Brentwood, 219; Maidstone, 201; Hornchurch "B," 141½; Southend and Leigh, 128½, and Brentwood "B," 95.

## Need ambulance — will walk

Walking to provide transport—that is the theme of a Blackburn Greys Round Table plan for the Easter holiday.

They are organising a sponsored relay walk from Blackburn to London during the eight days beginning on Easter Saturday to raise money for an ambulance for local spastics.

Letters have been sent to local and national firms asking them to sponsor the walkers—

10 or 12 of them—at a shilling a mile.

They hope to get a show business personality to fire the starting gun, and they will also ensure that all major towns and cities on the route know of the walkers' approach.

The idea came from Tabler George Papas and the walk is being organised by Mr. Peter Walsh, of Langdale Road, Feniscowles.

# Director slams 'unused surplus' comment

DIRECTOR of the Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring, has attacked remarks at a Chester Watch Committee meeting in which it was suggested that the Society has "a large unused surplus" and that some of this could be donated to local authorities.

Declaring himself to be "horrified" at the report of the remarks, made by Mr. W. Dutton, the Director says: "Of course the Spastics Society has reserves, but they are not large and they are certainly not an 'unused surplus' above and beyond our requirements."

"Every penny is needed for the continuation of our existing commitments and for urgently-needed future developments. The Society support more than 100 schools and centres and these not only cost approximately £5,000 per place to build, but cost up to £1,400 per resident to run and maintain."

"In addition, the Society have to finance a comprehensive range of social services and are pledged to find the money for a vital medical research programme into the cause and prevention of cerebral palsy . . ."

He also suggested that critics should consider the disquieting fact that, though the Society had helped some 20,000 spastics, there were probably at least 80,000 more in England and Wales, many of whom had received little or no assistance.

## Transport poser for half empty centre

A £15,000 spastics centre at Urmston, Manchester, for severely handicapped children, is half empty because children cannot get there.

The centre could give daily training and care to 50 children, but because of transport difficulties, only 26 places are filled.

Chairman of the management committee, Coun. George Carnall, said: "Our only hope is to find an organisation which will sponsor an appeal to raise the £800 needed to buy a mini-bus."

## Boots were made for walking . . .

Boots were made for walking, a popular song assures us. So employees of Boots the Chemists of Hare Street, Woolwich, took it literally and went on a sponsored walk to Bexley and back. They raised about £50 for spastics.

## SPASTIC 'DRIFTED' TO DRUGS

A 17-year-old spastic whose social life was said to be virtually non-existent because of his disability drifted into the company of people who used drugs.

And when two mem-

bers of Blackpool's drug squad saw him in a coffee bar, obviously under the influence of drugs, he was later accused of possessing drynamyl tablets.

The youth, Alan Newsham of Bispham,

admitted taking 12 "blueys" (drynamyl tablets), said the prosecuting police officer.

In court, he pleaded guilty to possessing 25 tablets and was put on probation for two years.

## The man who saw the ships go by...

JOHN THOMPSON of Newport, Isle of Wight, a 23-year-old spastic, has turned his interest in ships to good account.

Every day, Mr. Thompson carefully studies Lloyd's List, the Shipping Gazette, and the shipping pages of other newspapers. When there is any ship he specially wants to see, his father drives him down to the esplanade at East Cowes, which is an ideal vantage-point for the busy traffic of shipping in the Solent.

Then, using one hand supported by the other, he laboriously types out articles for "Marine News," the magazine of the World Ship Society. The first he had published was about the last voyage of the Queen Mary from Southampton to Long Beach, Florida.

To mark his achievements in this field, Mr. Thompson has been given a commemorative plaque by Mr. Michael Crowdy, Editor of "Marine News." The presentation was arranged on behalf of Mr. Crowdy by Mr. R. F. Sprake, Chairman of the Isle of Wight branch of the World Ship Society.

The Mayor of Newport, Alderman J. R. Powell, presented the plaque at a surprise ceremony recently.

## Watford get many offers for 'Week'

TWENTY-ONE organisations joined representatives of Hertfordshire Spastics Society Groups at an open evening to discuss local plans for Spastics Week—with very encouraging results.

The secretary, Mrs. M. Willis, said that 2,000 circulars had gone out to clubs, schools and businesses seeking help and the response had been encouraging. Many had offered to assist, among them a brass band from Holmshill School, and a folk-dancing team from the Woodcraft Folk, and others had sent donations or prizes.

The A.T.C. offered to run a jumble sale, the Association of Waterways Clubs a rally, and many other organisations made suggestions as to ways in which they were prepared to help.

The treasurer, Mr. G. Corrie said the money raised would go towards the £4,000 annual running costs of the Watford Centre, and the new county projects for continued day care for those who leave the Centre at 10 years of age and a residential centre for the older heavily handicapped. Press Officer Mr. B. Birdsall will deal with publicity for local events.

## Just three of the many reasons for selecting Carters equipment

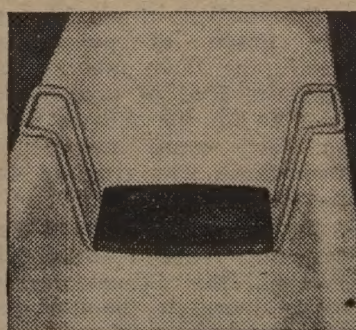


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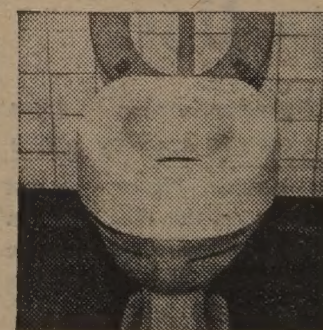
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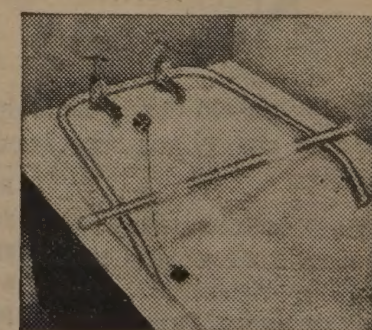
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## £40,000 bequest paid for centre

THE GENEROSITY of a London property company director has brought a new chance in life to 45 spastic men and women.

The director, the late Mr. Edward Zola Harris, of Woburn Place, bequeathed £40,000 to The Spastics Society with the request that the money should be used to build a London spastics centre in memory of his mother.

The result is the Miriam Harris Work Centre for Spastics, which was opened by The Spastics Society in Weale Road, Chingford, on February 3rd. Essex County Council have supported the project by providing the site at a nominal rent.

The new centre will provide work for residents at the Society's two nearby hostels in Woodford Green and, though only nine spastics

were there on opening day, the work force will eventually total 45.

The new centre, with its spacious workroom, dining and kitchen facilities, offices and garage, has taken over a year to build. In the meantime, a temporary work centre has been operating at Ray Lodge Congregational Hall, Woodford Green.

The supervisor of the temporary unit, Miss Sheila Gould, said: "The new centre is a wonderful achievement. We have already secured a

contract with a Loughton firm to pack paper, and we are also inspecting cigarette cartons for a firm in Leyton. But we want much more work to enable us to pay our way and train people for outside employment.

"The centre is equipped with drilling machines and similar equipment, and we welcome any type of light assembly work or light engineering." Architects and surveyors for the project are Dinerman, Davison and Hillman of London, N.W.3.

## Duke leads his award scheme into seventies

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH outlined a "New Look" for his young people's Award Scheme, in which many spastics take part, at a Press conference with the theme "Into the Seventies."

The Duke said the previously parallel schemes for boys and girls were now to be amalgamated. Conditions of entry and participation were to be simplified and the Scheme's literature brought up to date. The upper age limit would be raised to 21 in order to give more time to those under pressure of employment and studies. This should also benefit handicapped participants.

### Off the cuff

Further changes would mean that young people could enter the Scheme at any level instead of having to progress from Bronze to Silver to Gold. Finally, at the Gold Award level, both sexes would be able to choose either Physical Activities or Design for Living, instead of the former being confined to boys and the latter to girls. The Design for Living programme itself was to be more directly related to the problems of adult existence.

After outlining these changes the Duke invited members of the Press to ask questions. There was an enthusiastic response and the Duke answered everything "off the cuff". His detailed replies reflected a great interest in and background knowledge of the Scheme. He dealt in a tactful and good-humoured way with some awkward queries.

### More newsworthy

In answer to questions, he pointed out that the Scheme helped young people discover that there was more to life than just work and home. People had more leisure these days and the Scheme gave youngsters an opportunity to see for themselves what could be done in their spare time.

On questions of morality and the image of present-day youth, the Duke said he felt that the kind of people who went in for the Scheme were, in fact, more newsworthy than those who received the most publicity.

He hoped and believed that teenagers found a way of life through the Scheme which would inoculate them against the temptations of anti-social behaviour.

Ruth House Holiday Centre for spastics and their families, at Cliff Avenue, Cromer, is believed to be the first of its kind.

Run by Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Louch and their spastic son, Graham, it comprises a number of units, each fitted with



Celia McCarthy learns how to operate her new chair as Mr. and Mrs. Henderson (left) and Mr. Cooke look on.

## AN EPIC TRIP FOR CELIA

Sixteen-year-old spastic Celia McCarthy, one of the 80 physically handicapped children at Bedelsford Special School, Kingston, is now able to move about without any assistance.

She can drive herself in one of the latest Epic battery-electric invalid chairs, manufactured by the General Engineering Division of A. C. Cars Ltd.

The chair is one of two presented to Mr. Clifford Cooke, Headmaster of the school, by Mr. L. Henderson, proprietor of "The Swan", Mill Street, Kingston, and his wife, Mrs. Joyce Henderson, who is chairman of the Kingston Licensed Victuallers' Women's Auxiliary.

### Independence

Mrs. Henderson said that the money for the chairs, which cost £140 each, was donated by customers of "The Swan". A further £10 was also presented by Mr. and Mrs. J. Sladden and customers of "The Cambridge Arms", Kingston, from raffles over the Christmas period, and £9 was raised by Mr. Keith Mott, drummer of the "Impalas", for a four-hour non-stop drum solo.

The chairs are also supplied by the Health Ministry to individuals who would thereby gain some measure of independence and who cannot manage ordinary self-propelled chairs.

### Fleetwood's 'Jack' dies

Mr. John Albert Knapman, of Hatfield Avenue, Fleetwood, has died, aged 44. Mr. Knapman, who was known throughout the town as "Jack," was a spastic and spent all his life in a wheelchair.

He was a member of the Onward Youth Club and Fleetwood Mentally Handicapped Youth Club.

## COLLEGE POTTERS QUEUE TO HELP SO'TON SPASTICS

THE SOUTHAMPTON Work Centre has been overwhelmed by the assistance it has received from the pottery department at the Southampton College of Art in getting its own pottery going.

The Works Manager, Mr. R. D. Husband, told Spastics News: "Those in charge of centres will understand the difficulties of finding a variety of work and interests for the more heavily handicapped spastic."

"Inspired by the success which several centres have had with pottery, we decided that if they could do it, so could we. But we could not afford an additional staff member to teach the subject."

"We took the problem to the College of Art. Not only did we get advice, but Mr. Clements, the head of department, has gone out of his way to be of assistance to us."

Mr. Clements appealed to his classes for volunteers to help at the Work Centre, and rounded up 10, which allows for two for each afternoon of the week. In addition, he detailed a course of lessons, advised on equipment and supplied materials, which will be paid for quarterly.

Said Mr. Husband: "Now there are plans under way to make it a full time activity. Without the generous help of the College of Art this idea would still not be off the ground, and we express our very sincere thanks to them."

"Perhaps other centres will now be encouraged to try this very interesting and enjoyable occupation."

### BOY TOOK SPASTIC BOX AND PURSE

A 12-year-old Blackpool boy, who admitted raiding a collection box for spastics and stealing a woman's purse from her handbag, was given a 12-month conditional discharge by Blackpool Juvenile Panel.

## End-of-course awards for houseparents

MEMBERS of the fourth houseparent course at Castle Priory College, who had been successful in their practical training, and in the assessment of their work accomplished during the course, were presented with their badges and certificates by Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director, Services.

Mr. Lancaster-Gaye referred to the various events which had taken place during the course (both scheduled and unscheduled) and congratulated the students on their success.

Seven of the students have taken up appointments in Spastics Society schools, two have returned to the local authority schools which sponsored them during their time on the course, and Mrs. Oniyide, who formerly worked at Ponds, will shortly be leaving England to work with handicapped children in Nigeria.

## GET-TOGETHER ON NEEDS OF HANDICAPPED

Representatives of all societies for the handicapped in the Worthing area are to meet to consider the needs of the disabled.

A pool for disabled swimmers and remedial and hot sea-water baths have already been discussed by Worthing organisations and the suggestion has been made that the Town Council might consider the needs of the disabled in plans for a new sports centre.



## The £10 knock

Gabrielle Blewis, a pupil of Paddington and Maida Vale Girls' High School, is something of a trend-setter.

For Gabrielle raised £10 in a door knock for the Westminster Appeal—the largest single amount the Spastics Society has ever received in any door knock envelope.

A group of taxi drivers in Nottingham gave an outing to children at "The Mount" recently.

They collected the children, took them to a pantomime at the Theatre Royal and bought them sweets and ice cream.

The drivers were so pleased with the success of this venture that they are now planning similar trips for the summer.

Above: One of the taxis sets off with four-year-olds Philip Spear and Mark Simmons and their teacher, Mrs. Ann Truefitt, aboard.

## Scrub the pavements?

### No, say police

A 19-year-old Surrey agricultural student's plan to raise money for charity has been knocked on the head by police authorities.

Richard Maule-Oatway and nine other students from Merist Wood Agricultural College, Worplesdon, Surrey, had planned to scrub a pavement in High Street, Guildford, on February 8, with toothbrushes and buckets of detergent to raise as much money as possible for The Spastics Society.

But then Richard learned from Guildford police that his unorthodox way of raising cash would cause too much of an obstruction to shoppers.

"We are very disappointed,"

Richard said. "Everyone was very keen on the idea and I'm sure we could have raised quite a large sum. We do see the police point of view, however."

Richard said he would now organise a door-knock campaign for the Society in Guildford.

Richard, who lives at The Farmhouse, Leatherhead Road, Oxshott, has been interested in the work of The Spastics Society for a number of years. His mother, Mrs. Pauline Maule-Oatway, has been a teacher at the Society's centre for spastic children at White Lodge, Holloway Hill, Chertsey, since it opened 11 years ago.



CATERING CAN BE A REAL HEADACHE FOR THOSE WHO RUN THE SPASTICS SOCIETY'S ESTABLISHMENTS, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT PLENTY OF PEOPLE ARE

# Eating well —on 33s. a week

IN ANY SCHOOL or centre a nourishing diet is essential to the well-being of spastics and staff alike. However, in these days when domestic help is scarce, catering can be a real headache for those who run the Society's establishments.

At Meldreth Training School for instance, nearly 150 people sit down to each meal. The staff problem here was so acute that it was decided to call in an outside firm of caterers. The firm provides a residential kitchen staff of eight.

## Good therapy

Extra staff can quickly be moved in by the firm in an emergency. Another advantage is that the firm buys all its goods wholesale which means that costs can be kept down to 33/- per head per week which is the rule for all the Society's centres.

Meldreth has three houses in operation at present and each house has its own kitchen with a cook and assistant cook. Mr. Stone says that this splitting up of the catering arrangements is uneconomic but good from the therapy angle as the separate kitchens have become an integral part of the "family" atmosphere which each house is striving to create. Consistency is aimed at between the three houses so that nobody can say "I had a better dinner than you today."

## All the same

Meals are varied, plentiful and nourishing. Planned at least a week in advance, the menus are vetted by Matron who sees that the correct balance of protein is maintained. Special "non-chew" diets are provided for children whose jaw muscles are affected and "non-fat" diets for older girls who might become too heavy to lift about.

The 30 children and 15 staff in each house all eat the same. They have a cooked breakfast, the main meal at mid-day and a high tea consisting of a hot snack, cakes, biscuits and bread and jam, sometimes preceded by soup.

As Meldreth is "home" for a large part of the year to children and staff alike, Mr. Stone feels it is important for meals to be as much like "Mother's cooking" as possible.

A similarly home-like atmosphere is evident on a much smaller scale at the Eastcote Hostel, Ruislip. Here, Mrs. P. Hendry keeps house for up to eight adult spastics who go out to work. They all eat well and enjoy their food. The main meal here is taken in the evening from Monday to Friday, with a mid-day dinner and high tea at week-ends.

## Wonders . . .

Groceries, bread and milk are all delivered, but Mrs. Hendry likes to shop around for meat herself, as she finds it pays to compare prices. Her choice of menu depends on what meat is available and she says she rarely plans meals more than a few days in advance. In fact, she is exactly like an ordinary housewife catering for a fairly large family.

Another "family" of adult spastics lives at Coombe Farm, one of the Society's oldest centres. Here the numbers are 45 residents and 25 staff. Mr. D. M. Brady, the Chef, has been there for eight years.

Here again, wonders are performed on the statutory weekly budget of 33/- per head. There is a cooked breakfast, mid-day dinner, tea with biscuits or home-made cakes and a snack supper which includes soup in the winter.

## Healthy

There is always a roast for Sunday lunch and sometimes once in the week as well. Like the cooks at the other centres, Mr. Brady tries to avoid too frequent repetition but says he finds it difficult to go for more than a fortnight without repeating some dishes.

Coombe Farm's Matron says that all the residents have healthy appetites and are particularly fond of cheese dishes. No special diets are necessary. Residents who cannot chew well prefer to have food mashed up on the plate, while those who wish to lose weight cut down a little on bread and potatoes. Mr. Brady has all the food delivered and says that the local tradesmen are very good to the centre. Food and vegetables are bought wholesale, while large discounts are given for milk and bread. However, Mr. Brady says that

he could save more money by buying in even larger quantities if only he had the storage space. He finds a recently-installed deep freeze quite useful, but could really do with a cold-room for hanging large quantities of meat.

## Could save . . .

The same need for a cold store was expressed by Mr. Stone at Meldreth. He said that if he was not careful meat could go off very quickly in the overheated atmosphere—temperature in the school has to be kept at a constant seventy degrees for the sake of the children.

Mr. M. A. Mitchell, the Society's Supplies Officer, is also concerned about storage problems. He said: "The Society spends between £3,500 and £4,000 a year on food for its centres alone. We could save a lot of money if we could buy food straight from the wholesalers."

## Warehouses

The Society has negotiated contracts for tea and coffee whereby individual centres place their orders direct with the wholesalers, but so far Mr. Mitchell has been unable to extend this scheme to other foodstuffs.

In order to gain the maximum benefit from bulk-buying, the Society would need large warehouses where food could be stored until required. However, even then the difficulties of despatching the goods to schools and centres scattered all over the country would be well-nigh insurmountable.



The Duchess renews acquaintance with little Martin Tester, one of the centre's young pupils. They appeared together on television last year to launch an appeal. (Picture, courtesy of "Worthing Gazette").

## Duchess opens new spastics centre at Worthing

THE new Fitzalan Howard Spastic Children's Day Centre at Worthing was described by the Duchess of Norfolk as "a great united effort" when she opened the unit.

It was largely, she said, through the generosity of Sir Edward Caffyn and the work of the Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society that the opening was not delayed for several years.

The keynote of the centre would be happiness for the children, and the staff did not spare themselves to achieve this end.

The Duchess thanked Brig. and Mrs. J. R. Allen for putting their riding school at the disposal of the children, and also thanked the chairman and officers.

Bought with money raised by the youth of Worthing, a £300 ambulance was presented to the centre by the Mayor, Alderman Mrs. D. E. Rudd.

It will now cost £5,000 a year to run Worthing's two spastics centres.

## Thank you, Thorndike Theatre

A feature of the New Thorndike Theatre at Leatherhead, opening in September this year, will be special facilities for disabled people.

These features, incorporated in the Theatre's design, include a lift to all floors, special lavatories on the restaurant level at the rear of the auditorium and six places in the auditorium itself set aside for wheelchairs with six adjacent seats for their attendants.

## Young idea again

Young people of Aylesford Secondary School near Maidstone, who last year organised a dance and presented the Maidstone Area Group of The Spastics Society with a cheque for £62, have contributed a further £52 the proceeds of another dance.

Said the chairman of the Group, Mr. Stanley E. Collingwood: "We hear so much bad criticism these days of the young generation that it is always refreshing to know that there are many groups of young people who get pleasure from helping others."

## Packet deal

A sum of £311 has been collected for spastics in three years by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kay who run the Newcastle Packet public house in Scarborough.

## Land's End and back plan

Teenagers in West Cornwall are being asked to put their best feet forward during Spastics Week.

At a meeting of the West Cornwall Spastics Committee, the vice-chairman, Mrs. S. Thomas suggested that youth organisations should take part in a sponsored walk—perhaps to Land's End and back.

She had been told, she said, that "the young people just can't wait to go on another walk."

Other ways in which young people (who were represented at the meeting) could help was by distributing literature and an art exhibition, which would attract holiday-makers. A "mile of pennies" was also suggested, as were many other ideas.

## New use for old bottles

Over £33 has been collected in an old whisky bottle at the Gupshill Inn, Tewkesbury. By means of a competition the money was made up to £40 and presented to the Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society.

## Posy for Beryl

Miss Beryl Tweedale, one of the Hornsey Carnival Princesses, was among the distinguished visitors to a spastics party held at the Hornsey Centre for Handicapped Children.

Miss Tweedale was presented with a posy by a spastic guest, Veronica Bickerton.

## Shop for centre

Wakes Hall spastics centre has taken over an empty shop in Sudbury, Suffolk, where goods will be sold in aid of the centre.

## The Society's Seminar 1969

The theme of the Spastics Society's annual Seminar to be held at University College, Oxford, from 15th to 21st April, 1969, will be "Future Services for the Mentally Subnormal."

The Seminar will be interdisciplinary but will be of particular interest to medical doctors working in subnormality hospitals. Applications are also invited from doctors in public health and from Education Authorities. There will also be some places for senior nursing and care staff from training centres.

The Seminar will consist of a Faculty of lecturers and several small study groups. The principal subjects will be: (a) forthcoming changes in services; (b) institutional or hostel care; (c) assessment and training; (d) the role of medicine; (e) the training of staff both care and teaching; (f) administrative problems; (g) the care of the subnormal and the community.

Participation in this Seminar will be limited to 100 people and will be by invitation only. The cost per delegate including board and lodging will be £20. Those who would like to be invited should apply, stating details of present employment, to:—

Miss A. S. Hunt, B.A., Conference Officer,  
The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

## YOU WANT TO HELP SPASTICS

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MARCH

1969

## People like Rosie



### From the Director

MRS. ROSIE SINDEN, who lives at Amptill in Bedfordshire, is 78 years of age. She is one of the 50,000 or so "Spastic Pool" collectors who are employed by Regional Pool Promotions who are based at Bristol.

Many days of the week she is out collecting her one-and-sixpences and in her case, these are collected in the main from local public houses. She remarks rather ruefully that there is no fear that she will lose her head for figures because "if I feel a bit fuzzy I go on to tomato juice."

She and her 81-year-old husband Charlie have been working for charity for many years and they are still very active. They are part of a very old English tradition, one which goes deep into our history, since we are a nation which has for many centuries supported voluntary bodies, who in turn have made it their business to care for the sick, the aged, the handicapped and the socially deprived.

## Businesslike

One often hears the remark passed these days that charity is now big business. This is not so. No true charity can be run as a business, but any large charity must be run in a businesslike fashion, while at the same time retaining its essential feeling for the underdog.

Charity is a volatile field. Every year or so a new cause comes before the public eye and not infrequently are their images projected by slick and somewhat meretricious means. Lately some have become vehicles for the cult of the personality. What matters of course is their product and whether it will endure.

The Spastics Society obtains approximately half its income from the competitions run at Bristol and without that income over the last six or seven years the majority of the 105 centres of which we are so proud would not have been possible.

## Two reasons

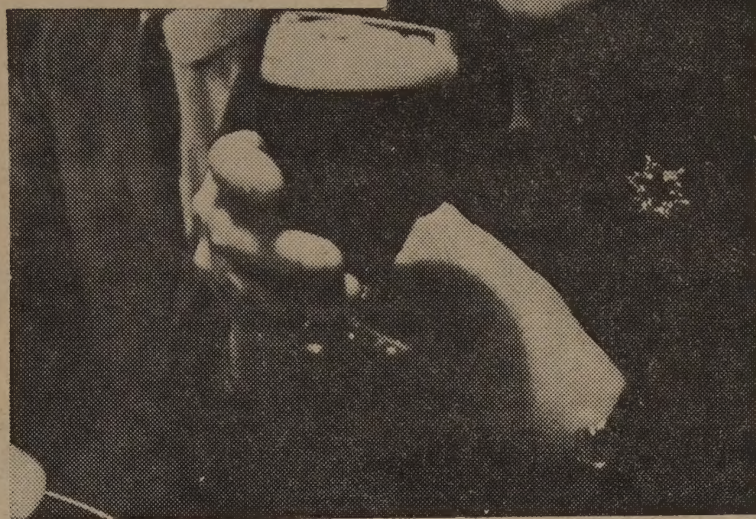
For two reasons. Firstly, because the capital money would not have been available and secondly, even if it had been made available the necessary financial reserves could not have been built up to support the centres.

The pool itself is dependent in the first instance upon its thousands of supervisors and collectors who work quietly and diligently every week of the year, servicing between five and six million pool supporters.

A recent survey has proved that the majority of these people support the pool because it is a charity competition. Their work continues in its unspectacular but singularly effective way without the aid of advertising and television and almost entirely because of good motives and a solid record of achievement.

So this is not just a tribute to people like Rosie. It is our way of saying "Thank you" to those who collect the one-and-sixpences and to those who hand them over. From these little acorns, may great oaks continue to grow.

Mrs. Rosie Sinden takes some refreshment during one of her weekly expeditions on behalf of the Spastics pool. There are thousands like her throughout the country, helping to make the lives of many spastics more comfortable.



## And it's all in a good cause

The pub-crawling 78-year-old of Amptill (Beds.) has nothing to reproach herself for. It's all in a good cause.

For Mrs. Rosie Sinden takes a glass of Guinness on Thursday in the Crown and Sceptre, the White Hart and the Prince of Wales. On Friday, it's the Old Sun, the Ossory Arms and the Albion. And on Saturday, off she goes again . . .

But at each pub, Rosie collects her 1/6d. Spastics Pools entry fees from customers. And there is no fear that she will lose her head for figures. "If I feel a bit fuzzy," she says, "I go on to tomato juice."

For five years, Rosie has been touring the pubs and never misses a likely customer. To the strangers, she says: "Why don't you help the spastics—here's a membership card." And with her engaging smile she rarely fails to win another convert.

Rosie and her 81-year-old husband, Charlie, have been working for charity for many years, dressing up and touring the garden fetes. (Photo by courtesy of "Evening Post," Hemel Hempstead).

Our regular feature this month takes an unusual form. It tells how one spastic from the frustrations of confinement in a mental hospital to the doors of the transcript of an item on the Radio 4 programme, "The World This Week-end" by permission of the B.B.C.

**THIS IS THE** programme, just as it went out. It opens as it does because it was not the first item on the script. **WILLIAM HARDCASTLE** begins:

And now a rather introverted note on The World This Week-end. One of our more amusing critics recently called The World This Weekend a sociological floor show. Well, we don't mind a bit of leg pulling, and we also get a kick when something nice happens as a result of something we do.

Take that story we told you last week of a man who was an apparently hopeless spastic, incapable even of speech—yet he'd written a book. Now let Bob Perrin tell you the second instalment of the story of Bill Howe.

**BILL HOWE:** (Through interpreter)

T-R-Y — Try — T-H-E-N — then — U-N-D-E-R-S-T — understand — Try to understand what? Like you. Try to understand that people like you.

**BOB PERRIN:**

That was Bill Howe on this programme last Sunday, with the help of Bill Waddington, the male nurse who met him 27 years ago in a mental hospital in Blackburn. He was explaining why he spent five years tapping out letter by letter a book of 15,000 words, about his life and the nurse who realised there was a good brain inside his twisted body.

Since then many people have rung us to ask about the book — what's its title, and when will it be published?

A week ago there was no publisher in the offing. Now there is. The Spastics Society say they'll publish it if no one else wants to, so this is an extract from Bill Howe's book

## Message of the with crossed

### Interesting people

### BILL HOWE — author

that everyone will eventually be able to read.

"Well, I started this story on the back of an old birthday card on Saturday, the 25th of October, 1958. I must admit that my spelling was simply awful. The nurse suggested that I should write my story on a sheet of paper and he would try to decipher it for me. I did that and found it was a great help.

"It wasn't as good as I wished it to be so I made a promise that I would go on to write it until I was quite satisfied with it.

"I had to guess a great deal at some of the spellings and correct some of the words, but all the sentences were my own. I wish this story to be an example of what can be achieved by spastics like myself. If only they had the opportunity."

**B.P.:**

The Spastics Society first heard about Bill Howe's book from this programme. Now its Director, James Loring, has read it, and William Hardcastle asked him for his opinion.

**JAMES LORING:**

Well, I think it's a remarkable book — quite a lot of

books have been written by handicapped people but Bill Howe's book is, I think, a little masterpiece. It's very clearly written, right from the heart, no unnecessary words. He describes exactly what happened to him during a very tragic life, and the way in which he's come through after every conceivable sort of adversity.

**W.H.:** Can you give me any idea of the style and the contents?

## A good brain

**J.L.:**

Well, he suffers from cerebral palsy, which is one of the most complex of ailments, and this is the way he describes it. "I found that my brain worked with my limbs as though the wires were crossed," and this is a perfect description, I haven't really come across a better one.

**W.H.:** And yet his brain obviously does work by itself extremely well?

**J.L.:**

It works extremely well. He's without speech and he's compensated for his lack of speech



Above: In conversation at the party—from left to right—were Miss Virginia Lewis, David Jacobs, Vera Lynn and Lord Mountbatten.

Above right: Leslie Crowther, chairman of S.O.S. and Mrs. Crowther with (centre) Diane Hart in happy mood.

## Day of the best-kept secret . . .

**VERA** Lynn was bowled over with surprises, the day she received her O.B.E. from the Queen for her services to charity.

Surprise No. 1 was a big party given by the Stars Organisation for Spastics at New Zealand House to mark Vera's investiture.

Surprise No. 2 for the Forces' Sweetheart — a vice-president and former chairman of the organisation — was a visit from Prince Philip!

This was also news to the guests at the party, because only the president of the S.O.S., the Marchioness of Tavistock, the past president, the Countess of Westmorland, the chairman, Leslie Crowther, and a handful of chief officers knew of the Royal visit in advance.

Vera Lynn's husband, Mr. Harry Lewis, didn't know either. He had already been burdened with keeping the secret of the party from his wife. He had done this so well that the organisers thought he deserved a surprise too. Miss

Virginia Lewis, their daughter, was also at the party.

Prince Philip was welcomed by Lady Westmorland, Lady Tavistock and Leslie Crowther. Mr. Angus Ogilvy was also present and Earl Mountbatten of Burma popped in during the evening to offer his congratulations to Vera.

There were more surprises on the way. For during the party Vera was presented with gold discs in recognition of the huge world-wide sales of her records.

Sir Edward Lewis, chairman

of Decca, presented one for a million copies of "Yours", there was one from Bovema-Holland for 100,000 copies of "Land of Hope and Glory" and one from E.M.I. to mark the presentation of Miss Lynn's O.B.E.

Show business personalities who attended the party included David Jacobs, Sylvia Syms, Brian Rix, Elspet Gray, Alan Freeman, Derek Farr, Muriel Pavlow, George Moon, Simon Dee, Graham Stark, Dora Bryan, Peggy Cummins, Peggy Mount and Margaretta Scott.



one spastic has beaten a path  
of the publishers. It is a  
week-end" and is reproduced  
the man  
d wires

by using a typewriter with his  
toe.

These days, particularly after  
our work in the field as a  
Society, it's possible to have a  
very accurate psychological  
test. The diagnosis is really  
very good now. We would spot  
very quickly that Bill was of  
above average intelligence. But  
all this happened about 24  
years ago and it wasn't so com-  
mon then, and he can really  
owe his triumph to the percep-  
tiveness of a very sensitive  
nurse in a large sub-normality  
hospital.

W.H.:  
He's done this wonderful  
thing — the book will be pub-  
lished — how else can you help  
him, what else do you think he  
might do?  
J.L.:

Well, I think that Bill is well  
placed in his hospital. He's in a  
room on his own there and I  
think he ought to be encour-  
aged to write some more. I  
think he's got a natural literary  
talent and I would like to see  
him work perhaps as a part  
time journalist.

W.H.:  
Just two additional points  
about Bill Howe — the title of  
his book, a very good one, is  
"Crossed Wires", and he tells  
how he was inspired to start  
the whole thing when he saw  
the film of the life of Douglas  
Bader, the fighter ace, of  
course, who fought despite the  
loss of two legs. Anyway, we  
think it's a jolly good story.

Footnote: Bill Howe's "jolly  
good story" is at the moment  
being read by two well-known  
publishing houses.—Editor.

Bonnie and  
Clyde  
weren't  
in it . . .

FIVE HUNDRED boys  
with sideburns, and girls  
looking more like the boys  
with sideburns than girls,  
danced themselves ecstatic  
to the weirdest jumble of  
cacophony I have ever heard  
at London's posh Lyceum  
recently.

Suddenly, the music  
ceased, there was a flash of  
multi-coloured light and the  
mob converged around the  
stage . . .

\* \* \*  
After what seemed like a  
30-minute wait, that well-  
known tele-person, Jimmy  
Saville, emerged from the  
wings, clad in an eye-catch-  
ing purple suit, his un-  
believably blond hair creep-  
ing across the stage before  
him.

\* \* \*  
Appearing with The Love  
Affair were the Ray McVay  
Band and Springfield Park.  
The do, by the way, was St.  
Valentine's Eve Massacre,  
held to raise money for the  
Paddington Work Centre.

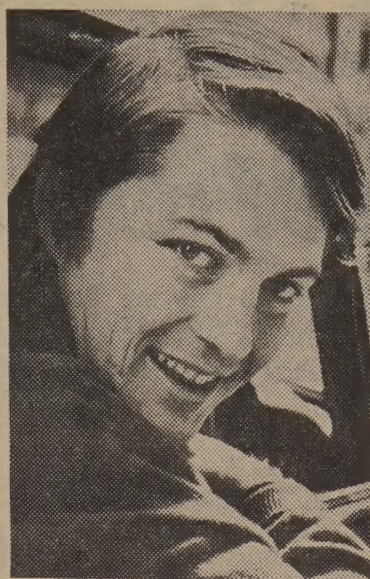
All I can say is that  
Bonnie and Clyde weren't  
in it!

Mike Cook

## Golden oldies

POP TALK  
with

Pete Brady



I THINK THE POP business is going through a very strange  
period at the moment. During the last month or so, there  
have been very few of what I call "instant hits". Mary  
Hopkin's "Those were the Days" is the most recent one that I  
can think of.

Music sales usually follow a trend, but there has not been  
a pop "craze" for some time. If one looks at the Top 30 there  
is a bit of everything in it; beat, ballads, R. & B., and most  
significant of all "golden oldies". This is the strangeness I  
was referring to. It seems that with no hit trend in music to  
churn records out on, the record companies are re-releasing  
oldies. Not as one would think records from the 'Fifties but  
"youngies" from as little as two or three years ago.

I AM QUITE GLAD to see some of these records released  
again, as there are some gaps in my record collection that  
need filling, and I know that there are many others who like  
to play these hits again and again. I am also quite sure that  
the records that go into the charts for the second time pro-  
vide just as much enjoyment as they did first time round,  
otherwise people would not buy them. I only hope that soon  
there will be blossoming of new sounds and names in the  
charts.

IT'S A GOOD TIME for new talent, as anything new is  
a blessed relief at the moment, for example, Peter Sarstedt's  
"Where do you go to?" and Glen Campbell's "Wichita Line-  
man," both outstanding new songs. Speaking of new sounds  
it's quite interesting to note that the Beatles have a new  
album scheduled for release in April. It seems that we may  
be getting an album every six months from them, which  
can only be a good thing. I was a bit disappointed with  
their last album but even so, there were several superb songs  
on it.

MARY HOPKIN'S new album, "Postcard" on first hearing  
seem disappointing, but on closer listening it is proving to  
be a most interesting and entertaining record. I under-  
stand that she will have a new single out in a few weeks'  
time. Everyone will be waiting to see if she and Paul  
McCartney can produce another instant No. 1.

To end, news that the Monkees will be touring Britain in  
May. Since they have not had much success in the last few  
months, this might put them back in the charts where they  
belong.

NEXT MONTH: ALAN FREEMAN



Jingle-jangle-jungle gymnastics with The Love Affair, greeted ecstatically from the floor.

## Lucky thirteenth for the big, big show

THE LUCKY THIRTEENTH  
— that's the day in April  
when the fabulous annual  
Record Star Show takes  
place at the Empire Pool,  
Wembley.

Sponsored by the Daily  
Express, organised by David  
Jacobs and produced by  
Johnnie Stewart for the  
Stars Organisation for  
Spastics, it promises to be  
the best yet. Reservations?  
Make them through the box  
office, Empire Pool. Next  
month, I hope to tip you off  
on the line-up . . . But make  
sure of your place now.

I HEAR that the nation-  
wide Civic Trust organisa-  
tion have commended Lan-  
thorne Hospital School for  
Spastics at Broadstairs in  
their latest list of awards.

Six Kent buildings received  
commendations and the Lan-  
thorne School was mentioned

because judges felt it was a  
new building which made an  
outstanding contribution to  
the surrounding scene.

SOME FUNNY things turn up  
in charity circles, but one of  
the oddest arrived, I am told,  
at the appeal office of the  
Scottish Spastics "Project  
Horizon."

It was a metal cement drum,  
filled with pennies and with its  
lid lined with £1 notes — a total  
of almost £120.

Over the year, Mr. John Scott had  
asked his colleagues in a  
Musselburgh firm to drop their  
spare coppers in the drum . . .

A Spastics Week Operations  
Room is being set up at  
Park Crescent to deal with  
all inquiries.

The office includes the ser-  
vices of the Spastics Week

## Short Story Contest

With the example before them  
of Bill Howe (see "Interesting  
People," this page), many other  
spastics may be inspired to write  
of their own experiences.

The editor, however, believes  
that spastics, like other aspiring  
writers, should be encouraged to  
direct their talents to imaginative  
work.

We therefore announce this  
month a short story competition  
exclusively for spastics. For the  
best original story, a prize of

£25 will be awarded, together  
with publication in "Spastics  
News."

Any other story entered which  
is considered worthy will be pub-  
lished and paid for at our usual  
rates.

Stories should not exceed 1,000  
words in length, and should be  
submitted before the end of May,  
1969. Further details, and entry  
form, will appear in next month's  
"Spastics News."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ON THE £. s. d. OF 'I CAN'T WALK'

I HAVE READ with great  
interest your publicity on  
the "Pensions for the Handi-  
capped" Bill of Mr. Jim  
Prior. This is a long-needed  
Bill, very much required by  
disabled persons to bring  
their benefits into line with  
the cost of living.

A disabled person does need  
more heat, and this is not taken  
account of in the allowance  
now. I cannot get anything  
extra as I live with my 83-year-  
old father in his house.

I pay half the household ex-  
penses and various other bills  
as they come due and only by

keeping my personal spending  
very low am I able to cope with  
the £.s.d. problems.

I think Pamela Phillips  
brought many points to light  
also in her very observant  
article. No normal person  
would consider working for less  
than a wage that would keep  
them in comfort—they would  
strike.

But a person who has been  
born disabled is given just  
enough to get by on and con-  
sidered lucky. I have been told  
often: "Well, you don't need  
much really when you can't  
walk . . ."

I think all disabled persons  
should support Mr. Prior in his  
efforts. With all good wishes to  
"Spastics News" for their  
efforts to publish up-to-date  
comments and the Society for  
keeping M.P.s informed of our  
needs. As one of the over-50s  
group, I hope that I'll live long  
enough to benefit.

MARY RIGBY (Miss)  
13 Cinnamon Hill Drive, South,  
Walton-le-Dale,  
Preston.

### Conference

I SHALL BE grateful if you  
will kindly allow me to draw  
attention to the forthcoming  
3rd International '62 Club Con-  
ference to be held at the  
University of Reading on 25th/  
26th/27th July, 1969.

This conference, which will  
be dealing with marriage and  
also pensions, is open to all  
spastic and other severely dis-  
abled people over 16 years of  
age. Those who attended the  
1967 Conference at Reading  
will well remember the wonder-  
ful facilities and it is hoped  
that there will be many more  
applications this year. Already

a considerable number of appli-  
cations have been received from  
abroad.

It will be of great help if  
those interested in attending  
would kindly complete the ap-  
plication form on the back of  
this newspaper and send it to  
me as soon as possible.

W. M. C. HARGREAVES  
President,  
Association of '62 Clubs.

### Holiday help

CAN YOU PUBLISH this  
letter so that I can obtain  
information about a cheap holi-  
day in Spain or France, either  
in a rented villa or hotel?

We have a spastic daughter  
aged 12 years who is wheel-  
chair-bound. I would like to  
hear from someone with per-  
sonal experience of a holiday  
with a wheelchair and the sort  
of thing one needs — baths  
rather than showers, pleasant,  
convenient toilets, not too many  
steps from, say, the hotel to the  
swimming pool or beach; a  
beach with an easy approach.  
You know what murder it is,  
dragging a wheelchair down  
one of those sandy roads!

I don't really have to enu-  
merate the difficulties. I would  
be so grateful if anyone with  
personal experience had time  
to drop me a line.

JOY BURLING  
83 Sandyleaze,  
Westbury-on-Trym,  
Bristol.

### BITS AND PIECES

by The Collector

The two delightful outsize mice,  
advertising Walt Disney's "Cin-  
derella" at the local Odeon, earlier  
entertained children at Watford  
Spastics Centre. (Picture courtesy  
Watford and West Herts. Post).



KODAK LIMITED have  
agreed to give £1,750 over  
seven years to sponsor a  
child to attend the Watford  
Spastics Treatment Centre.

Between 25 and 30 children  
attend the centre, opened six  
years ago, from an area in-  
cluding Tring and North-  
wood.

THE WRITING on the wall . . .  
In the men's lavatory of the  
Great Portland Street pub fre-  
quented by the drinking fraterni-  
ty at Park Crescent, a joker has  
written: "This wall is now avail-  
able in paperback."



## NORWICH '62 CLUB OPEN THE DOORS

The Norwich '62 Club is to open its doors to all-comers. This would give the city its first club run entirely by the physically handicapped for the physically handicapped.

Formed three years ago by people working at the NaNSA work centre at Norwich, the club has decided to invite those with other physical handicaps to join.

Mr. Stanley Riches, the club's adviser and a member of the executive of the National Association of '62 Clubs said: "With just one handicap represented you are limited in what you can do. The introduction of more members would bring new ideas and different talents."

New members are welcome from any part of Norwich or Norfolk provided they can find transport to attend the monthly meetings at the work centre. They should telephone 27662 or write to Mr. Riches at the centre, at



Mr. Riches at the work centre. (Picture, courtesy of Norwich Mercury)

Bowthorpe Road, Norwich. Mr. Riches hopes for an increase in membership from 20 to about 80.

# Last-ditch moves on transport cut

MEMBERS OF the Bath and District Spastics Society committee have made "last ditch" moves in the battle to persuade Wiltshire County Council not to cut transport for Wiltshire spastic children attending Bath Day Treatment Centre.

The council will save £2,500 a year by curtailing transport which takes heavily handicapped children from outlying districts to the centre.

After March 31, instead of attending the centre daily, the council has said it will transport the children for short periods of physiotherapy only. The children have made remarkable progress at the centre since it opened last year, and their parents are angry that they will be denied their chance of the expert and devoted care the centre provides.

At a meeting the Bath committee decided—out of an income of about £1,000 a year—to provide £500 for the cost of escorts for the children.

The committee has also asked the council to see if the remaining £2,000 can be divided between the health and education committees' budgets.

Wiltshire's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, has told the committee their proposal will be forwarded to the appropriate committee for consideration.

## Cost of an 'economy' measure

"It was the Health Committee which recommended the transport cuts as an economy measure," said Brigadier Trevor Mossman, chairman of the Bath and District Spastics Society.

"However, we hope that as Wiltshire County Council is already providing a teacher at the Centre, the Education Committee might find half the money for the transport. After all, it would surely cost far more if these children had to be educated at home.

"We will try everything to keep these unfortunate children at the Centre. It would be a tragedy if just £2,000 was allowed to stand between them and the chance of a reasonable future."

## Two spastic children hurt

Two spastic children from Birtenshaw Hall special school at Bromley Cross (Lancs.) were treated in hospital after the taxi in which they were travelling skidded and crashed through a window at the school.

The taxi-driver, Mrs. Sonia Rudd was detained at Bolton Infirmary. The car shattered a six-foot square window and came to rest with its bonnet in the school's entrance hall. The central heating system was damaged.

The children were allowed home after treatment.

## Plea for all out effort

The Salvation Army Songsters were among the entertainers at the Gloucester and District Spastic Association's annual party, and others included "Uncle George Gough" (conjurer) and "Uncle Tony", who showed films.

The secretary, Mr. W. G. Thomas, said expenses had again been met by customers of the Parkend Hotel, Gloucester Bowling Club bingo members and customers of the King Edward Hotel, Longlevens.

Mr. Thomas also appealed for an all-out effort to achieve the Association's Spastics Week target of £2,000.

## Gaoled after eve of wedding fraud expedition

ON THE EVE of his wedding, 21-year-old William Hannigan and his prospective father-in-law, William Ferguson, went from door to door in Saltcoats pretending they were authorised to collect on behalf of spastic children.

## Abduction in Earl's Court Road

Susie was picked up in the early hours of New Year's Day and dragged off down the Earl's Court Road by a Scotsman who had been celebrating Hogmanay in London, a bit too freely.

However, a policeman happened to witness the abduction and quickly came to the rescue.

Susie was soon restored to her rightful place outside an Indian restaurant with her £3 savings still intact, but the Scotsman was fined £10 at West London Magistrates Court.

Susie, of course, is one of the Spastics Society collecting box models.

## A new look for Crewe centre

Crewe and District Spastics Society's centre will shortly take on a new look. Work is due to start in converting the present building into a residential hostel to accommodate six spastics, and there will also be a workroom to cater for 22 at the rear of the existing premises.

The work is expected to be completed by June.

And, only two hours before the wedding was due to take place, Hannigan and Ferguson admitted defrauding householders of 42s. 6d. The prospective bridegroom, who had 11 previous convictions, was gaoled for six months and Ferguson was fined £15.

It was said that the offence was discovered when the two men asked for money at the house of a local agent for the spastics organisation. He called the police.

Each man was found to have an agent's card with the words "Radio Bingo" scored out and "For Spastics" written in.

## Local schools will visit Oakwood

Three local schools are to send groups of students to visit the Oakwood Further Education Centre for spastics at Kelvedon, the principal, Mr. E. Doherty told a meeting of the recently-formed Friends of Oakwood Association.

Mr. Doherty said it was hoped that this co-operation would lead to an acceptance of spastics on equal terms by the younger generation.

The chairman of the Friends, Mr. William Pasque, said ways in which the Association could help included fund-raising activities, and he specifically mentioned a fete and the collection of waste paper.

## Galaxy of stars shine at Hemel Hempstead

There was a galaxy of stars at the Pavilion, Hemel Hempstead when entertainers gave their services to help raise money for the Stars Organisation for Spastics and the Herts. Handicapped Association.

Topping the bill were Dickie Henderson, Roy Budd and his Trio, Anne Rogers, the Molly Molloy Dancers and John Wade, with the Victoria Palace Orchestra.

Comperes were David Jacobs and Keith Fordyce. The first £500 raised was for S.O.S.

Also on behalf of S.O.S., Simon Dee conducted an auction of donated items at The Bowler's Arms, Cliftonville, and raised £70. This, added to the contents of a Susy Doll which was opened at the same time, gave a grand total of £130.

## 'BATTLE' AIRFIELD VISITORS

A party of children from the Thomas Delarue School were recently shown round Biggin Hill, the famous Battle of Britain airfield in Kent.

## Group's first president

LADY EGREMONT of Petworth House has consented to become the first President of the WEST SUSSEX Spastics Society. The group, which raised £200 over Christmas, is hoping to save enough money for a holiday bungalow.

The St. Raphael Club for the handicapped in KINGS LYNN, is £535 in the red. The club arranges holidays for old folk, spastics and other disabled people. The Friends of St. Raphael have been asked to give extra financial support and an appeal has been launched.

Thirty organisations in WOLVERHAMPTON have been asked to consider ways

## PLYMOUTH'S SHOP MADE £1,060

The Plymouth Spastics Centre's Christmas shop, opened by the Lord Mayor for the sale of cards and gifts, raised £1,060. The premises were loaned by the Westminster Bank and manned by volunteers.

A further £50 was raised for the centre by Plymouth High School girls.

Members of a youth club on Drake's Island have been regularly visiting the centre to help in toy and jumble collections and to repair and paint the toys.

Miss M. I. A. Ridley, the Principal, said: "We appreciate their efforts very much — also the many others who help us from time to time, including the old lady of 90 with her monthly postal order and the lady from the local home for the blind who collects sixpences for us in matchboxes."

Miss Ridley said that many women's and Church organisations had been visited to show them the film "The Big Umbrella" and this had evoked interest and in some cases financial assistance.

## Devotion rewarded

Well-known for her work at Leavesden Hospital on Ward 3, which caters mainly for spastic patients, Sister Winifred Kendrick has been awarded the M.B.E. "for devoted and long service to nursing." Says Dr. E. W. Shepherd, the Medical Superintendent: "I can't think of a person more deserving of such an honour." Miss Kendrick has been a ward sister for 20 years.

(Picture by courtesy of West Herts and Watford Observer).



## Persistence pays off at Rushton

The tactful persistence of the landlord of the Thornhill Arms, Rushton (Northants) in pointing out his pile of pennies for The Spastics Society has paid off.

The licensee, Mr. Sam Oldham, saw two Under-23 International footballers, Peter Grummit and Barry Lyons of Nottingham Forest, push over the pile recently and hand over the money to Mr. Dick Phillips, the area collector — a record sum of £30.

Weather note: Brian Reynolds, the Northants, County Cricketer came along, too — as a "reserve", in case of fog.

## Briefly...

Sixty spastics aged from two to 40 enjoyed a party held by PONTEFRAC and District Spastics Association.

Twelve residents and two members of the staff of COOMBE FARM Centre, Croydon beat the February blizzard to attend an enjoyable party at Reigate given by the Redhill and District Spastics Association.

A 16-mile sponsored walk to help raise money for a spastics centre at PONTYPRIDD was undertaken by more than 260 young people from Merthyr, and was expected to raise £200.

of raising cash during Spastics Week to aid the district Spastic Society, who hope shortly to set up a training centre, meeting-place and offices in the city.

"An Aladdin's Cave" was how the Sheriff of HULL, Sir Leo Schultz, described the city's charity card shop where almost £4,500 was raised in 1968—£1,000 more than the year before. One of 20 charities to benefit, the Spastics Society received £272 14s. 10d.

A "Bunny Girl" cabaret was one of the features of a St. Valentine's Ball arranged by the Greenbanks Residents Association in aid of the MELDRETH Spastics Training School.



# New let's-get-together effort yields unique unit

## NaNSA get new strength in North

A North Norfolk Branch of the Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association has been formed under the chairmanship of Mr. E. J. Moore.

Other officers are: vice-chairman, Mr. N. E. Watts; secretary, Mr. R. Aden; committee, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Watts, Miss G. Watts, Mr. and Mrs. N. Louch, Mr. and Mrs. K. Argent, Mr. R. G. Pateman and Mr. D. Garrett.

Mr. Moore, of Eastcote, Station Road, Cromer, would like to hear of anyone who can offer any kind of help.

## TROWBRIDGE GIRL FOR REMPLOY

A Trowbridge spastic, Miss Diana Mossman, daughter of Brigadier Trevor Mossman, Bath and District Spastics' Society chairman, and Mrs. Mossman of Ravenscroft, Hilpert Road, is starting three months trial with Remploi at Henleaze, Bristol, working on aircraft parts.

Diana will have to live in Bristol because she will have to start work at 7.45 in the morning. She was at Sherrards from July, 1966, to May, 1967.

She was a member of Trowbridge Philharmonic Choir in 1966 and a member of Sea Ranger Ship Enterprise, Trowbridge, from 1965 until this year.

## Double take

Councillor F. J. Chapman of Worthing visited the Dome bingo club to present a £4,250 jackpot prize. Then it was his turn to be handed a cheque for £50—a surprise gift from the club to the local Spastics Society, of which Councillor Chapman is chairman.

## Appeals post

The Liverpool Spastics Fellowship has appointed Mr. Jack Bradley as appeals organiser. Mr. Bradley, who was until recently manager of a Widnes hotel, had been in the licensing trade for over 40 years.

**AN URGENTLY-NEEDED** family help unit for West Midland spastic children will open in March at Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster. Up to 10 short-stay beds will be available to accommodate children at times of acute family crisis.

The unit has been made possible by a unique co-operative effort by the Mid-Worcestershire Hospital Management Committee, The Spastics Society, the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and the Shropshire Spastics Society.

The national Society made a capital grant of £10,000 for converting and extending existing buildings at the hospital; the Shropshire Society donated a generous £1,000 and in exchange for this capital support, the Regional Hospital Board has undertaken to meet all running costs for the service.

## Big saving

This co-operation has resulted in a project which could well be an example in other parts of the country to the benefit of thousands of spastics and their families who are in vital need of units of this kind.

Another advantage is that, because the unit is being established in premises already devoted to cerebral palsy and allied conditions in children, and because additions and conversions were possible, it has been provided for as little as £11,000. Normally it would cost the Society about £50,000 to set up a similar unit from scratch.

In turn, the National Health Service benefits by the provision by the Society of an improved unit which will enable it to carry out a higher standard of service, and from a saving in capital expenditure at a difficult time.

There are at the moment four family help units for spastics — at Manchester, Southampton, Plymouth and Nottingham. The Society had hoped to provide 12 throughout the country, but chronic shortage of money has made this impossible.

## Councillor obliged...

A town councillor turned singer at Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society's party.

Coun. F. J. Chapman, who is chairman of the district committee, stood in to sing well-known songs while the arrival of the cabaret was awaited by the 50 at the party.

The cabaret, produced by Mrs. D. Norris, was given by members of Durrington Parent-Teacher Theatrical Society.

## Introducing — the bagwash strip

**PASSERS-BY** in Bottomgate, Blackburn did a quick double-take, stopped short and stared in disbelief through the window of the launderette.

For inside, plainly visible through the steamed-up windows were three girls and two young men, nonchalantly stripping off...

Off came trousers, shirts, dresses, slips... Until, clad only in the briefest of necessities, the five opened up a washing machine, threw in their clothes, pressed the button and calmly settled down to read the papers while customers stood aghast.

The five strippers, all students at Blackburn College of Technology and Design, were making a supreme bid to draw attention to their annual charity rag week, from which the Blackburn and District Spastics Society and other local associations will benefit.

Said launderette manageress Mrs. Stella Singleton: "It's harmless fun and it's all in a good cause."

Chairman of the rag committee, Mr. Jobe Berrington, said: "We would like to raise the best part of £1,000 this time."

Not to mention the temperatures of Blackburn's unbelieving shoppers...



## NEW JOB FOR ANNE

A former careers officer with The Spastics Society, Miss Anne Sturzaker, has joined the Central Middlesex Hospital as its first voluntary services officer.

Miss Sturzaker, who is 26 and lives at Chalk Farm, will recruit volunteers for the various departments at the hospital and co-ordinate voluntary organisations that help the hospital.

Getting down to the bare essentials—Rosemary Tatchell, 19, Jeff Dodgson, 20, and Martin Dunn, 24.

(Picture, courtesy of Lancashire Evening Telegraph).

## 'Spastics' cash was spent on drink

**EVERY PENNY** collected by a Brighton architect "for spastics and epileptics" was spent on drink, Brighton Quarter Sessions were told. For the architect was an alcoholic.

Lee Falcon, of Lewes Road, was gaoled for 18 months on three charges of obtaining and attempting to obtain money by false pretences and stealing a £6 electric drill.

Prosecuting, Mr. David Peck said that Falcon, who was being treated for alcoholism, called at premises, saying he was collecting for spastics and epileptics.

"When I have a drink, I lose all sense of right and wrong," Falcon said in an alleged statement.

The court heard that he wanted 18 other offences to be taken into account.

## New chairman for Parents

The Parents' Association of Hamilton House, the day centre of the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society, has elected Mr. A. Verth as its chairman, and Mrs. M. Blair as secretary.

Total profits from the Society's 1968 Fair are likely to be about £1,150. The Christmas Draw produced a gross total of £226. Sales of spastics cards fell slightly to £350.

## Bungalow set-back

There has been a set-back in Castleford and District Spastics Society's hopes of providing a seaside holiday bungalow for the handicapped.

As negotiations were about to open for a three-bedroomed bungalow at Hornsea, on the Yorkshire coast, the Society's welfare committee discovered that the property had already been sold.

Chairman of the Society, the Rev. Stephen Fell, said afterwards: "We have decided to wait until next year to purchase a holiday home and not to commit ourselves with a mortgage."

## Toad Hall caravan

A real Toad Hall caravan has been given to Irton Hall to be used as play equipment.

The caravan was used in a production of "Toad of Toad Hall" by an amateur group calling themselves "Experiments in Entertainment" in Keswick, and was given afterwards to Keswick Round Table, who finally arranged for its delivery to Irton Hall.

## £1,000 bequest

Mrs. Gladys Powell, of 15 The Spinney, London Road, North Cheam, who died on November 17, left, among many charitable bequests, £1,000 to The Spastics Society.

## A LONG, LONG FLIGHT FOR £30

**SWELTERING** in the heat of the Persian Gulf while Britain shivered, airmen based there did not forget that there were children at home in need.

Junior Technician Charles Sandeman, of Lowca, Cumberland, remembered in particular the children at the spastics training centre at Richmond, Hensingham—and got permission

to put a collecting box on the canteen counter.

And recently, with his wife and sister, he walked into the centre and handed over £30 to supervisor Miss A. Lowe to "buy something special" for the playroom. With the money was a 208 Squadron plaque.

For Charles had been granted special leave to fly to England to make the presentation...

## Looking for a site

Country weekends are in prospect this Summer for children from the Percy Hedley Day Centre for Spastics at Newcastle, now that a caravan has been presented to them by the Variety Club of Great Britain.

The eight-berth caravan has been specially converted for the children. It was presented to the headmaster, Mr. D. D. Johnston, by Mr. Ted Lawson, chairman of the Newcastle Variety Club.

Said Mr. Johnston: "We are looking for a semi-permanent site for the caravan, preferably near the seaside, as well as being in the country."

## The Spastics Society

### CASTLE PRIORY COLLEGE

### Training Courses for House/Care Staff

1969/1970

(a) Residential Care of Handicapped Children.

(b) Care of Handicapped Adults.

Applications are invited for these two 15-month Residential Courses at Castle Priory College, Wallingford, commencing September 1969. Candidates must have at least one year's full-time experience of work with children or adults, and the minimum age for consideration is 18 years.

Both courses include practical periods spent in special schools for handicapped children, care units for the mentally handicapped, and other residential situations, as well as sessions in College. The courses work in parallel and give all participants a general awareness of the work encountered in a whole range of care establishments, while enabling them to develop particular skills for the two main fields of work.

Requests for application forms and other information, including financial arrangements, should be made forthwith to: The Tutor Organiser, Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Berks.



# Jump on the waste paper wagon

THE PRICE given by a merchant for waste paper is usually very low. But the Spastics Society have come to an arrangement direct with a manufacturer utilising waste paper providing a very good price of £6 10s. 0d. a ton, say the Society's Appeals Department.

## Friendship week for children

Nine children's charities are combining to hold the second national "Friendship Week for Sick and Handicapped Children," which takes place this year from May 18 to 24.

The charities are planning a series of events and hope that as many other organisations as possible will join in publicising the needs of these children.

The National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children is taking part this year, together with last year's sponsors — Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Catholic Handicapped Children's Fellowship, Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation Trust, Deaf/Blind and Rubella Children's Association, Elizabeth FitzRoy Homes for the Handicapped Trust, Invalid Children's Aid Association, National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital and the National Society for Autistic Children.

This company will accept only clean, dry newsprint paper, i.e. newspapers, telephone directories, newsprint-type magazines. These should be in easily manageable bundles of 28lbs. maximum, capable of being lifted with one hand and tied with string four ways so that the papers will not slip out.

Glossy magazines cannot be accepted.

The manufacturer who will collect quantities over a minimum of two tons, and up to five tons, is Hartmann Fibre Ltd., South Denes, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

A telephone call to Mr. Halli-ford at Great Yarmouth 55381 will bring a lorry, usually in the week following, to collect the paper. The day of collection will be confirmed so that some help can be arranged for the driver (unless absolutely impossible).

The paper will then be weighed at Great Yarmouth, a copy of the weighbridge ticket will be sent to the vendors and the price determined exactly and remitted.



"DOOR!"

## Charity shops law loophole

PROPERTY OWNERS who face payment of half rates on empty shops and offices under recent legislation can avoid payment by letting their premises free to charities.

The loophole, first pointed out by the town clerk of Camden, Mr. Brian Wilson, has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Housing by the Association of Municipal Corporations.

According to the "Daily Tele-

graph", local authorities now have the power to charge half rates on property which remains empty for more than three months. However, if a charity uses the premises for more than six weeks, at Christmas, for example, a further period of three months must elapse before rates can be charged.

The law says also that if an empty property was last occupied by a charity, the rates chargeable are subject to a further 50 per cent reduction, irrespective of whether the property is eventually re-occupied by a charity or not.

Property owners therefore end up escaping rates altogether for the three months following use by a charity and after that pay only a quarter rather than half the normal rates.

Mr. Wilson said in his letter to the Association: "although the local authority cannot, of course, prevent these temporary lettings, there is the danger that an owner may abuse the existing position by soliciting a charity to accept fleeting use of his empty premises."



A cheque for £55 is handed to Mrs. C. E. Williams, chairman of Monmouthshire Spastics Society at a dinner of the Islwyn Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose, Risca.

The cheque, presented here by the Lodge Governor, Mr. N. E. Best, was raised at a concert they organised.

## Recital helps spastics

A song recital staged in Bootham School Hall, York realised almost £36 for the York and District Spastics Group.

Organised by Dr. Francis Jackson, the organist of York Minster and Mr. Gordon Pullin of Bootham School in co-operation with the secretary-organiser of the group, Mr. Leonard Daley, the concert was well-attended.

The recital was given by Dr. Jackson and Mr. Pullin and included Schubert lieder and Greek and English folk songs.

## 147 join Friends

Since its formation last October the Steering Committee of the Drummonds League of Friends has been busy. Membership now stands at 147.

The inaugural meeting is being held on March 25 at Drummonds Centre, Feering, and a large turn-out is hoped for.

A Spring Fair is to be held the following weekend.

## TAXI? NO!

There were few taxis on the streets of Bristol on just one recent evening. For most of the city's taxi-drivers spent the evening at Transport House, Victoria Street — and not for a union meeting, either.

They were raising money at a social to ensure that the spastic children of the area got their annual trip to the seaside...

## Andrew was page-boy

Four-year-old spastic Andrew Hardy, from the Cheyne Walk Centre, was one of the page boys at a Notting Hill Gate wedding.

The bride was Miss Jenny Rogers who married Mr. Colin Michael Allies. She worked at the centre for some years.

## PARTY TIME

There was a happy gathering at a party given by the Caven-dish Club for Blackburn and District Spastic Group and Blackburn Crippled Children's Aid Society.

## Pancake proceeds

Proceeds from Colchester Young Farmers' pancake race, held in conjunction with the Hobart Youth Organisation of Tasmania, are being donated to Wakes Hall spastics centre.



## Non-slip pad in use Remarkable new aid

NON-SLIP TRAYS, CLOTHES HANGERS ALSO AVAILABLE

Write for details to:

DYCEM PLASTICS LTD. (DEPT. SN/I)

Adlams Works, Justice Road, Bristol, BS16 3JQ

## THE MAGIC OF THE

## MERLIN

MORE NEWS of the Merlin Social Club at Haverford-west... After the first year the club held their first annual dinner and dance, and what a huge success it was.

The members sat down to a beautiful dinner with invited V.I.P.s who have given lots of help. Speeches were kept brief and included 'thank you' speeches from some of the members.

A group of six young men provided the music, this group being known as the "Bus Stop Invention", and very good they were.

The walls and floor appeared to bounce up and down and the club members were in their seventh heaven. The Medical Officer of Health very bravely took the floor and the drums beat, the guitars twanged, the vocalist sang — this was what it was all about! Music, dancing and singing.

To the more sensitive ears of the squares amongst us, it was a

bit overpowering but we got the hang of it and even enjoyed it, but to our members it was sheer bliss.

Everyone was really dressed up for this big night, the girls in pretty dresses and one or two in silver slippers, the young men in snazzy shirts and each and every one shining-eyed and having the time of their lives.

The club padre, the Rev. N. Bryan, outshone everyone with his dancing, and goodwill abounded on all sides.

One of the members was invited to come on the dance band rostrum and sing, and his face was a picture of pure joy as he took the mike. Dancing partners were plenty and a very young Wren from the local Navy

establishment said that she had enjoyed our dance better than the local ones—a compliment indeed!

As we watched our young people, with faces beaming, dancing and laughing, it really brought home just how much the club means to them all and I am certain that the club leader and her band of hard workers must have felt a sense of achievement and pride at this triumphant and happy climax to our first year.

It has given some wonderful outings, concerts, film shows, barbecue and a mystery tour; it has also given the club many helpers, young and old, and our thanks go to them all.

May the next year be every bit as successful and may there be many more over the rest of the country. Of course none will be like "The Merlin." We reckon ours is quite unique.

ANN WRIGHT.



# BARGAINS AT SPECIAL PRICES

By the Supplies Officer

A NEWLY-APPOINTED secretary of a local group of the Spastics Society told me he had taken over a file of correspondence from his predecessor. And for the first time, he had come across the "Supply Notes" which are sent monthly to schools and centres. Could he circulate them among his members, he asked?

Many of the items in "Supply Notes" are of interest to larger users, but some are of value to the family. There is no reason why they should not take advantage of this information, particularly as many of the items are available at prices which show a saving.

For example, for sit-down ironing, there is the **RELAX PRINCESS MARK 2**. It has a top adjustable to any height and specially designed legs which enable the user to sit up to the table. The retail price is £9 19s. 6d., but through the Supplies Officer it can be obtained for £6 13s.

The **MOULINEX LIQUIDISER-GRINDER** (Coffret No. 3) has a capacity of one pint. A rough price comparison would be: Retail £6 19s. 6d. Our price £5 15s. 4d. The smaller (No. 2) size, making about half a pint, costs £4 2s. 3d.

The **"SAFA" BATH SEAT** shows a saving of nearly 30 per cent at £2 10s. plus carriage, about 4s. 6d., while the **BABY BUGGY PUSH-CHAIR** costs £4 15s. plus carriage, about 6s. 3d.

All these items may be obtained through the Supplies Officer, who is also prepared to add applications to the waiting list for **I.B.M. RECONDITIONED ELECTRIC TYPEWRITERS** — not available through trade channels. The price is £25 plus £4 if fitted with the special keyboard. Waiting period, three to four months.

Wicker-work **LINEN BASKETS** are obtainable from The Works Manager, Spastic Work Centre, 27 Bramley Hill, South Croydon, Surrey.

Finally, among the many useful products of Dycem Plastics Ltd., advertised elsewhere in this issue, the eight-inch **NON-SLIP MATS** can be had for 2s. 4d. each from Miss. D. Mereer, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W1.

## People in employment

**GEOFFREY BAILEY** from Burton-on-Trent who trained at Sherrards is employed as a driller in the Shoe Last maintenance department of Eatoughs Ltd.

**RICHARD BENTLEY** from Manchester is employed as a capstan setter operator by the Lincoln Electric Co. Ltd. in Welwyn Garden City.

**SIDNEY BROOKS** from Birmingham is employed as a projection welder by Wilmot Breeden Ltd.

**JEFFREY EVANS** from Narberth who trained at Sherrards is living at the Bristol hostel and working in the local Remploy.

**JOANNA FARRELL** from Northampton is now running her own grocery shop.

**DONALD GAFFEY** from Burnley who trained at Lancaster is working locally as a small capstan operator for Ival Engineering Co. Ltd.

**SHEILA GOODLEY** from Lancaster who trained at Lancaster is now working as a perforating machine operator for a firm in Morecambe.

**ANDREW GORDON** from Darwen has been doing light labouring work for a local firm since August 1968.

**ALAN MILLS** from Salford who trained at Lancaster is now working in Eccles as a semi-skilled machinist.

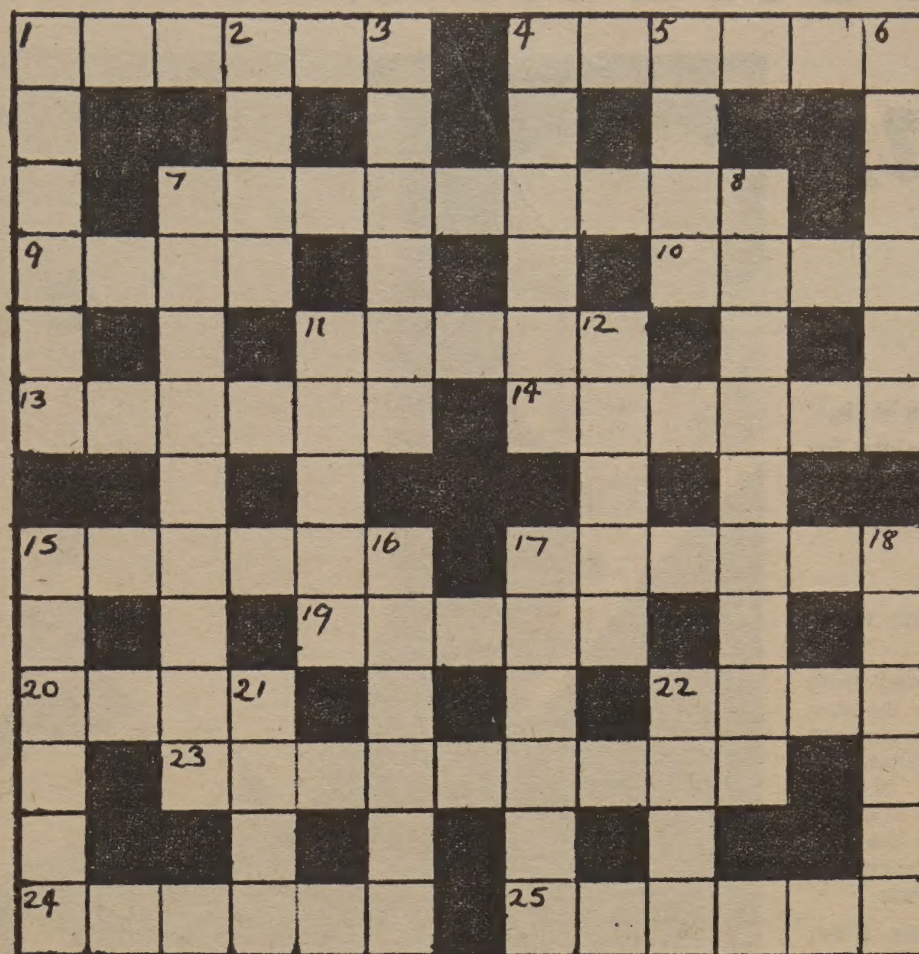
**MARIA MLESZKO** from Market Harborough who trained at

### February results

Winner of the cryptic square last month was Mr. Ben Brian, of the King's Arms, Llandudno, who wins two guineas. There was no all-correct solution to the easy square.

Solutions were:  
CRYPTIC—Across: 5 Proud. 8 Aptitude. 9 Usage. 10 Atlantic.

## PLEASE-YOURSELF CROSSWORD No. 5



In this monthly competition, you choose whether to go for the harder "cryptic" square for a guinea, or the easy puzzle for 10s. 6d. Prizes in each case go to the senders of the first correct solutions opened. And there is a bonus—if you are a spastic, a further 10s. 6d. will be added to your prize, regardless of which clues you have answered.

Send coupon to: Editor, "Spastics News," 12, Park Crescent, London, W.1, to arrive not later than first post on the 15th of this month. Solutions and prizewinners next month.

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

SPASTIC? YES/NO

### This month's clues

#### CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1 Let me trip! 4 Roses are, in Picardy. 7 Sounds as if you dined late—to slim. 9 Stay away from this bit of the ledge. 10 Sign—not "Ladies only," though. 11 Sides round noiselessly. 13 Desires to get a letter in stories. 14 Sequence, as of articles. 15 Hundreds surround the hospital department. 17 A manic depressive, perhaps. 19 Gazelle for the messenger. 20 Some choose to pick it. 22 Last again. 23 Bill and coo—with Bill for the bird. 24 Wagons, even in France, but not lit, usually. 25 Gossip, over our rum, perhaps. DOWN: 1 "Alone and --- loitering" (Keats). 2 Time for the little

#### EASY

ACROSS: 1 Scatter. 4 Make known. 7 Storage building. 9 Draw together. 10 Animals. 11 Medicine. 13 Colour. 14 Aromatic plants. 15 Ponders. 17 Fortress. 19 Thrifty person. 20 Hut. 22 Cut. 23 Describing. 24 Column. 25 Allied territories. DOWN: 1 Ass. 2 Fibrous fuel. 3 Keep out of sight (two words). 4 Mocking. 5 Attitude. 6 Relies upon. 7 Mental control. 8 Lifting. 11 Amphibians. 12 Transparent. 15 Spiritual governor. 16 Taste. 17 Middle. 18 Uncover. 21 Softwood. 22 Break.

## Something up your sleeve . . .

These ideas, helpful to people who have difficulty in fighting their way into sleeves, were devised by Miss L. M. Cavanagh at Hackney Hospital. In the picture at left, the sleeve has been removed from the armhole and the seam opened to the top of the cuffs. The armhole has been enlarged underneath. The top shaping of the sleeve has been removed and refixed over the shoulder to form a cape sleeve.

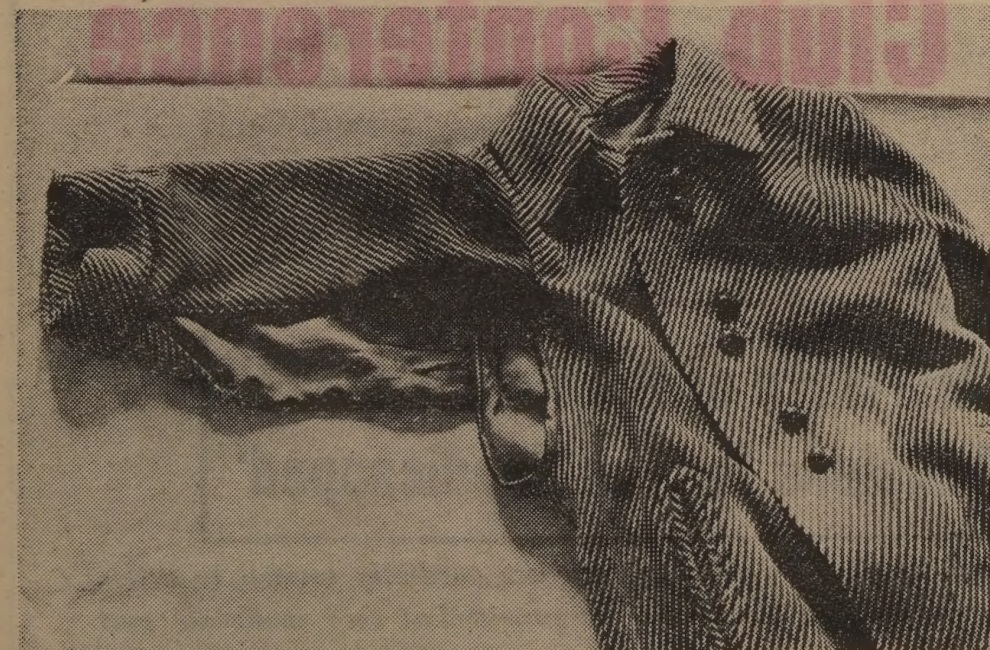
Note: An open shirt-type cuff with a button or snap fastening might be helpful to someone with difficulty in folding their hand up to go through the cuff.

In the second picture the sleeve has been removed and the armhole neaten, the top of the sleeve reshaped and sewn on to form a loose arm cape.

Another variation, not illustrated, is to open the underarm seam, neaten and attach Velcro to both sides.

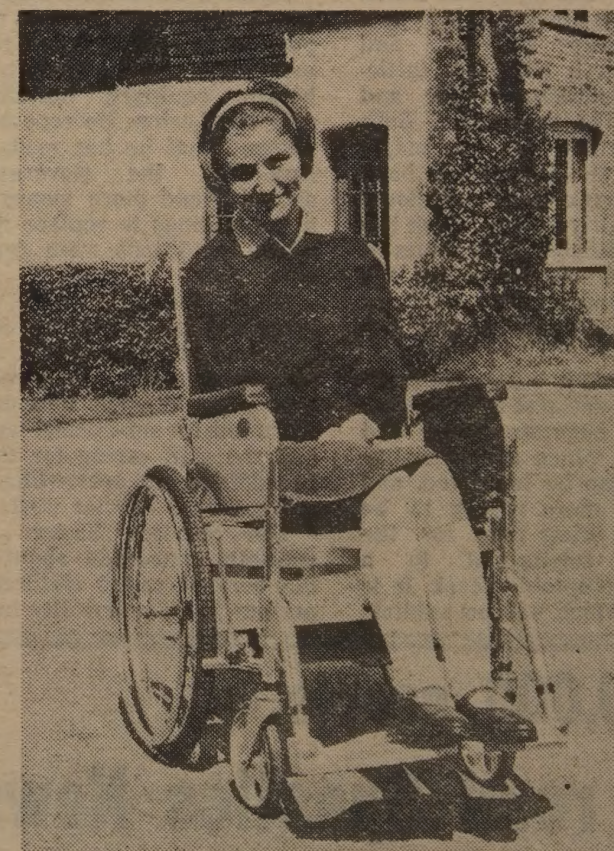
Miss D. M. Trumper, Head Occupational Therapist provided the photographs reproduced here.

S.K.



## LIGHT? LIGHTER? LIGHTTEST!

The NEWTON wheelchair is the lightest of them all



INSTANTLY DETACHABLE ARMRESTS AND DRIVING WHEELS. ALL WITH AUTOMATIC LOCKS. FOOTRESTS ARE DETACHABLE, ADJUSTABLE. NO MAINTENANCE NYLON BEARINGS. 100% GUARANTEE.



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Meadway Works  
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## Design FOR THE disabled

Against this background the Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled has undertaken a survey of some of the most widely used items of equipment, specifically for the disabled (writes the Society's Supplies Officer).

One line of study is on the design of furniture and equipment and a first publication deals with easy chairs for the semi-ambulant. This will be followed by others—tables and upright chairs; storage of clothing; and cutlery.

This research is certainly welcome, for the problem is complex.

THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED: A GUIDE TO THE SELECTION OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT. Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled. Per copy 1/6d. plus postage 4d.





# Society honours Wally (birdman) Pope

**E**AST LONDON pigeon fancier Mr. Wally Pope, who has raised more than £12,000 for The Spastics Society by staging annual pigeon auctions, has been presented with a silver replica of the Society's emblem for his services to the Society.

The replica was handed over at Park Crescent by the vice-chairman of the Appeals Committee, Mr. A. A. Tyrer. As he made the presentation, Mr. Tyrer said, "I expect we shall be hearing a great deal more of you, as I understand you have set your targets even higher."

Thanking the Society for the honour bestowed on him, Mr. Pope said, "Now that I've got the bit between my teeth, I intend to go on making even more money for the Society."

Mr. Pope, who is 57, has organised auctions on behalf of the Society and the Stars Organisation for Spastics for the last four years.

At the last sale in November, nearly £5,000 was raised, a world record for a pigeon auction, and £725 was paid for

a young bird, another world record.

Pigeons are presented from all over the world for the auctions, and buyers throughout Britain and the Continent attend them. Mr. A. N. W. Griffiths, the Society's Head of General Appeals, said that the auctions have gradually become truly international events.

Mr. Pope, who owns a pet shop in Barking Road, Plaistow, is married and has three sons and two daughters. He became interested in the work of the Society when recovering from a serious accident some years ago.

"I lay helpless on my back for eight months," he said, "and realised what it was like to be disabled."



Mr. Wally Pope (right) receives the silver replica from Mr. A. A. Tyrer, vice-chairman of the Appeals Committee, for his services to The Spastics Society. It is only the second time that the emblem has been presented. The first went to the Duke of Rutland.

## Round the tree

The "singing round the tree" referred to in a caption to a photograph in last month's issue was organised by the North-West London Group and not, as implied, by The Spastics Society.

## SMALL corner

Try a "small ad" in Spastics News if you want to buy or sell, and get the benefit of its national circulation. Remember—over 200,000 people read this newspaper, and for a very modest outlay, results are as near certain as they can be.

The rates for private advertisements in the "small ads" column are only 2/6 per line, with a minimum of three lines, allowing five words per line. Cheques, postal orders or money orders should be made out to The Spastics Society. (Trade rates on application).

## For Sale

**WATERPROOF PANTS.** Super quality, size 1 XL (5-9 years) 3/6 pair, 6 pairs 18/-. Size 2 XXL (9-15 years) 3/6 pair, 6 pairs 20/-. Sandra Incontinence Pants, Pull-On, adult sizes, 30in.—40in. hip, 5/3 pair. Sandra Mattress Covers, tie-on, lightweight boilable plastic, 48in. x 72in., 10/- each. All prices include postage. Mrs. C. Goodall, 63 Old Mill Close, Brighton, BN1, 8WE.

## Accommodation

**RUTH HOUSE** Holiday Centre, Cromer, for Spastics and their families. In the nicest part of the town, with every facility. For terms, write to: Ruth House, Cliff Avenue, Cromer.

## Personal

**SPECIAL** for parents: "Handling the Young Cerebral Palsied Child at Home," by Nancie R. Finnie, M.C.S.P. From Heinemann, 18s. "Assessment of the Cerebrally Palsied Child for Education", edited by James Loring. From Spastics Society Publications Department, 15s.

FROM  
PAGE 1

## Policy on sub-normality

clear the Society's concern at the plight of mentally handicapped spastics and their fellow-patients in some sub-normality hospitals. But after speeches and Press reports on this grave social and medical problem—what now?

What is the Society doing to help improve conditions in out-of-date hospitals where staff are struggling to cope in deplorable conditions, and where administrators are hampered by a chronic shortage of money?

It has already been reported in this newspaper that the Society is making a film which graphically illustrates life in a sub-normality hospital, and that research has been initiated to evaluate the size and scope of the problem. Both are important, but the major action by the Society has been in the approval of a national sub-normality policy, which has been formulated after hours of study and discussion by the Services and Medical Advisory Committees, and expert advisers.

The result is a detailed document that declares the Society's concern, suggests ways and means by which sub-normality services can be improved, and calls for more money to be spent to bring care for the mentally sub-normal to a socially acceptable level. It is a policy which will be publicly

referred to again and again in the future.

Where is the money to come from to make the improvements so badly needed in some hospitals and institutions? The Director said that it was felt that sub-normality treatment had been so grievously neglected that sacrifices should be made in other sectors of public welfare to provide the means. As a first step, the Government should immediately review plans already published by local authorities and regional hospital boards.

### Impersonal

"Squalid, out-of-date hospitals which may have served their purpose in mid-Victorian times must make way for modern and better equipped buildings," said Mr. Loring. He repeated a demand that he has made before—that the Government should spend more money on new buildings to replace those where conditions were deplorable.

Many hospitals were too large and impersonal and isolated from the rest of the community, he said. As a result, this often created intolerable situations for sub-normal people and the staff caring for them, in addition to preventing recruitment of further staff.

The Spastics Society was specially concerned about the numbers of young children at present in sub-normality hospi-

tals, particularly those in larger institutions. While the Society recognised that for many children there was at present no alternative, the Director said that it must press for the creation of more hostels, day centres, treatment units and short-stay facilities for handicapped children.

"No handicapped child should be admitted to a sub-normality hospital which does not provide for children a full range of specialised facilities of a high standard," he continued.

On research, he said: "Britain leads the world in this field. The trouble is that the research isn't being applied."

"The Society has encouraged, and will continue to encourage, new research at hospitals, especially where there is a possibility of the hospital concerned developing a link with a university department. It will also encourage hospitals for the sub-normal to take up operational research and would co-operate with them and other bodies in this field."

### New Deal

Other vital points made by the Director:

There is a need for more training and teaching in sub-normality at undergraduate levels where doctors, hospital specialists and local authority medical officers were concerned. Post-graduate courses for those responsible for community care are also necessary.

More child care training should be made available for psychiatric registrars and house officers who aim to work with the mentally sub-normal.

Teacher training at initial and post-graduate level should give greater consideration to the positive work that has been carried out in the severely sub-normal teaching and training fields.

A proper career and pay structure must also be devised to attract staff capable of teaching and dealing with the social problems of the sub-normal.

Recommendations of this kind would, if carried out, lead to a new deal for patients in sub-normality hospitals, said the Director.

## PRELIMINARY NOTICE

# 3rd International '62 Club Conference

University of Reading

25th to 27th July, 1969

### SUBJECTS:

**"Marriage of the Handicapped"**  
**"Pensions for the Handicapped"**

All spastic adults over 16 years of age are cordially invited to attend.

Accommodation and all meals will be provided at very moderate cost.

Come and let us hear what you have to say about these vital topics.

Complete the application form for further details.

## Application Form

TO :  
The Secretary  
The Association of '62 Clubs  
16 Fitzroy Square  
London, W. 1. WIP 5HQ.

Will you please send me an application form and details of charges for the 3rd International '62 Club Conference

(BLOCK NAME: .....  
CAPITALS ADDRESS: .....  
PLEASE) .....

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